

Claim 1 (currently amended) A process for producing aliphatic [C₃-C₁₀.] alcohols of 3 to 10 carbon atoms from high boilers, ~~wherein~~ comprising adjusting the high boilers are brought to a neutralization number of up to 2 mg of KOH/g by means addition of an alkali metal compound and ~~are treated~~ treating the resulting mixture at a temperature of ~~from~~ 165 to 185°C and a pressure of ~~from~~ 80 to 150 hPa in a distillation column and the overhead product taken off is subsequently hydrogenated.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the neutralization number is brought to a value in the range from 2 to 5 mg of KOH/g by addition of an alkali metal compound.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in claim 1 or 2~~ of claim 1 wherein the temperature is ~~from~~ 170 to 180°C.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3,~~ of claim 1 wherein an aqueous solution of the alkali metal compound is used.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4,~~ of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal compound is an alkali metal hydroxide.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 5, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6~~, of claim 1 wherein the aliphatic [C₃-C₁₀-] alcohol is 2-ethylhexanol.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The process ~~as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7~~, of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal compound is added to the feed to the distillation column.